

[0045] What is claimed is:

1. A Signalling System #7 (SS7) processing node comprising:
 a Signal Transfer Element for routing incoming and outgoing messages;
 a Signal Processing Element (STE) for processing the messages, the STE being
assigned a non-permanent Virtual Service Address (VSA);
5 wherein when the processing node detects an unavailability of a cooperating processing
node, the processing node issues a Transfer Allowed (TFA) message to an adjacent Service
Transfer Point (STP) for enabling a linkset route between the STP and the processing node.

2. A method for processing node redundancy comprising the steps of:
 detecting by a first processing node an unavailability of a second processing node,
wherein the first and second processing nodes are redundant processing nodes;
 sending from the first processing node to an adjacent Service Transfer Point (STP) a
5 Transfer Allowed (TFA) message for enabling a linkset route between the STP and the processing
node.